

Gateway Zogby Poll Results—Key Findings

January 2007

Background: An online poll conducted in the New York City area by Zogby International for NPCA in December 2006 measured the awareness and opinions of likely voters about Gateway National Recreation Area. This included online interviews of 1,193 likely voters in the New York City DMA. Panelists who have agreed to participate in Zogby polls online were invited to participate from December 14-18, 2006.

201. Are you aware that a 26,000-acre national park stretches across the New York-New Jersey harbor?

Yes	47%
No	47
Not sure	6

202. If a national park was located in close proximity to where you live, offered a wealth of recreational activities and nature study, and was easily accessible by public transportation, would you be inclined to visit?

Yes	72%
Maybe	22
No	4
Not sure	2

203. How familiar are you with the Gateway National Recreation Area, or any of its units, such as Riis Beach, Breezy Point, Jamaica Bay, Floyd Bennett Field, Great Kills, and Sandy Hook?

Table 1. Familiarity with the Gateway National Recreation Area

	%
Yes—I am only familiar with some of the units	46
Yes—I am familiar with Gateway National Recreation Area and all of its park units	20
Yes—I am familiar with Gateway National Recreation Area, but none of its park units	6
No—I am not familiar with Gateway National Recreation Area or any of its park units	25
Not sure	4

204. Which of the following units are you familiar with? (Choose all that apply)

Sandy Hook	71%
Riis Beach	34
Jamaica Bay	34
Breezy Point	30
Floyd Bennett Field	29
Great Kills	6
Not sure	3

205. When was the last time you visited Gateway National Recreation Area?

Within the last year	17%
Within the last 2 years	8

Within the last 5 years	10
More than 5 years ago	23
Never	39
Not sure	5

206. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, how would you rate the facilities of Gateway National Recreation Area, such as restrooms, beaches, historic buildings, and trails, compared to other national parks you have visited?

1 Poor	3%		
2	10	Below average (1-3)	44%
3	31		
4	21		
5 Excellent	6	Above average (4-5)	27%
Not sure	29		

207. Why do you give Gateway National Recreation Area a poor rating?

Dirty water	19%
Few recreational opportunities	17
Poor beaches	14
Crumbling buildings	9
Closed park facilities	9
Lack of park rangers	5
*Other	19
Not sure	9

***Other:** (Number in parentheses denotes frequency of similar response.) Bathrooms not sufficient or clean enough (10); Facilities not well maintained (10); Too crowded (5); Poor management (4); Access (3); Doesn't compare well to other national parks (2); No visitor centers or exhibits (2)

208. If you were to visit Gateway National Recreation Area, how would you prefer to get there?

Own car	71%
Subway	8
Public bus	4
Private Ferry service	2
*Other	3
Will not go/Not sure	13

***Other:** Bicycle (8); Boat (4); Train (4); Someone would have to drive me (3); Motor home; Motorcycle

209. Which of the following activities would you participate in as a visitor to Gateway National Recreation Area? Note that the activities bolded in red cost an additional fee. (Choose all that apply)

Picnicking	55%	
Historical tours or information	51	
Hiking	43	
Swimming	42	
Biking	30	
Birding & Nature Study	27	
Boating		22
Horseback Riding	21	
Fishing	20	

Camping	15
Golf	12
Team sports	8
Model Airplane Flying	7
*Other	4
Not sure	10

*Other: Walking (11); Photography (7); Dog park (6); Nude sunbathing (3); Relaxation (3); Running (3); Canoeing/kayaking (2); Concerts (2); Hunting (2); Sightseeing (2); Sitting on a beach (2); Surfing (2); Amateur radio; Autocross; Batting cages; Community activities; In-line skating; Kite flying; Scuba diving; Tennis

210. Do you agree or disagree that New York State and /or New York City should help fund an effort to restore Gateway National Recreation Area?

Table 2. Restoration Funding by the State and City

	%
Agree—both New York State and New York City should help fund the effort	53
Agree—only New York State should help fund the effort	11
Agree—only New York City should help fund the effort	1
Disagree—New York State and New York City should not help fund the effort	10
Not Sure	24

211. Knowing that the National Park System currently suffers from an annual operating shortfall of \$800 million every year, do you think that Congress and the Administration should increase the budget, decrease the budget, or keep giving the same amount to help preserve and protect national parks, such as Gateway National Recreation Area?

Congress should increase the budget	63%
Keep the budget at the same amount	17
Congress should decrease the budget	5
Not Sure	16

212. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being do not support and 5 being strongly support, please indicate if your support for the following statement about the National Park System. “Gateway reflects the values of our community and contains historically significant treasures.”

213. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being do not support and 5 being strongly support, please indicate if your support for the following statement about Gateway National Recreation Area. “I support efforts to increase funding for Gateway National Recreation Area to ensure the restoration and preservation of this national park site for future generations to enjoy.”

Table 3. Views on the Gateway National Recreation Area

	Low			Medium	High			Not sure
	Total	1	2	3	4	5	Total	
I support efforts to increase funding for Gateway National Recreation	7	4	3	20	26	33	59	15

Area to ensure the restoration and preservation of this national park site for future generations to enjoy								
Gateway reflects the values of our community and contains historically significant treasures	5	2	3	22	23	23	46	27